

$(a+b)^a$ , Cumulative Credibility,  
and the  
Distribution Envelope Determination (DEnv)  
Algorithm

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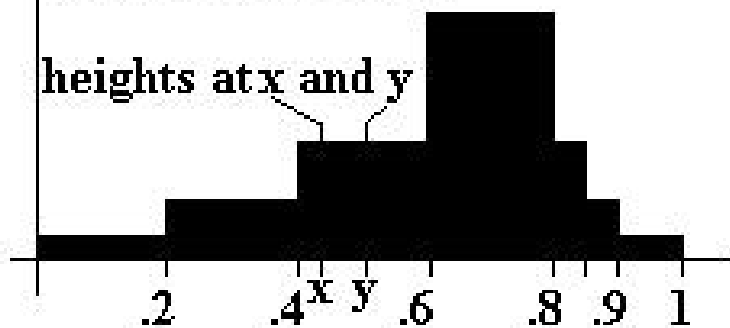
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# Problem 2a

Credibility density function for  $b$  has deceptive plateaus



Evidence for  $x$  = Evidence for  $y$

But -

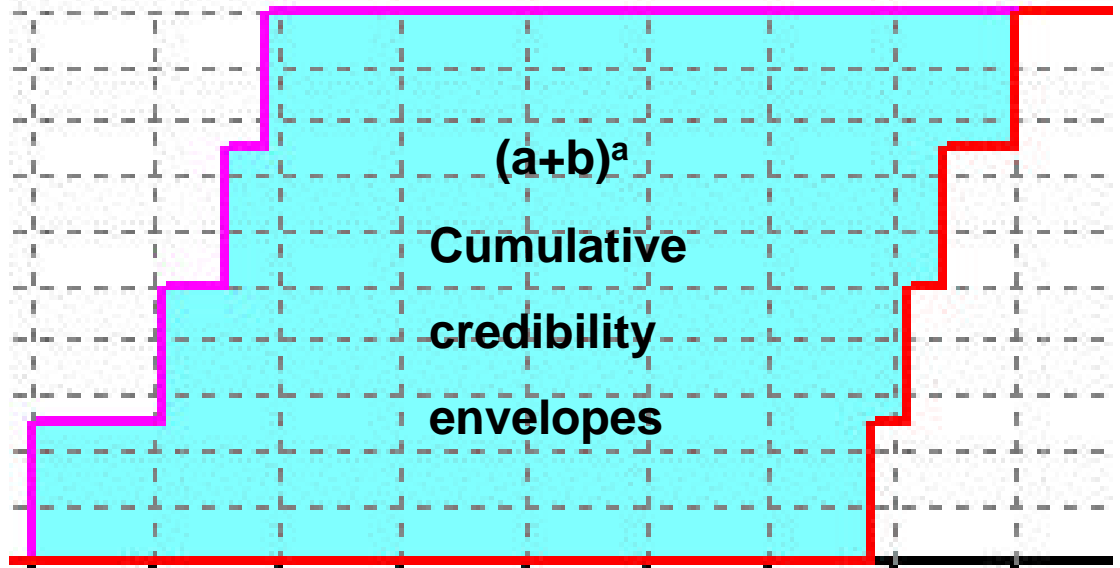
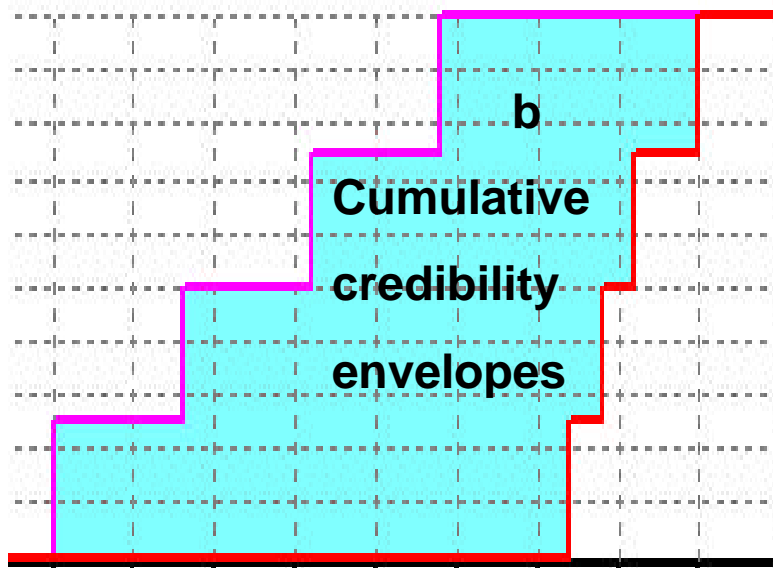
*There is no evidence they have equal credibility*

Distribution of credibility over its interval could be highly skewed, uniform, an impulse, etc.

Total credibility is the same for each interval

This uncertainty about the density function is easily expressed as:

**Cumulative credibility envelopes**

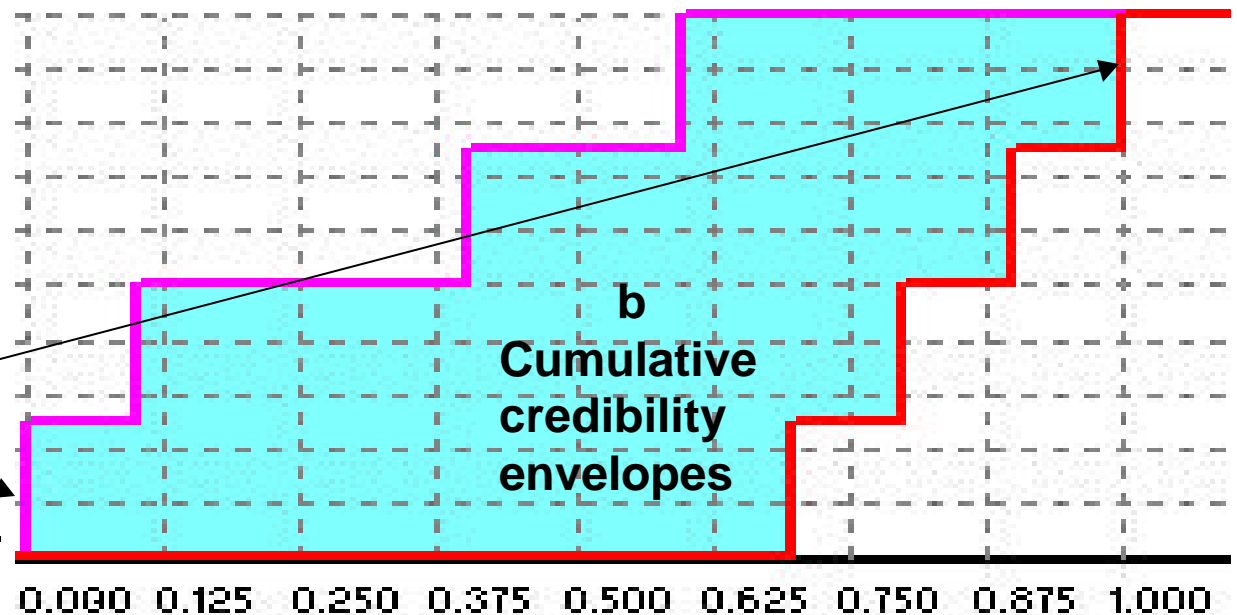


0.000 0.125 0.250 0.375 0.500 0.625 0.750 0.875 1.000

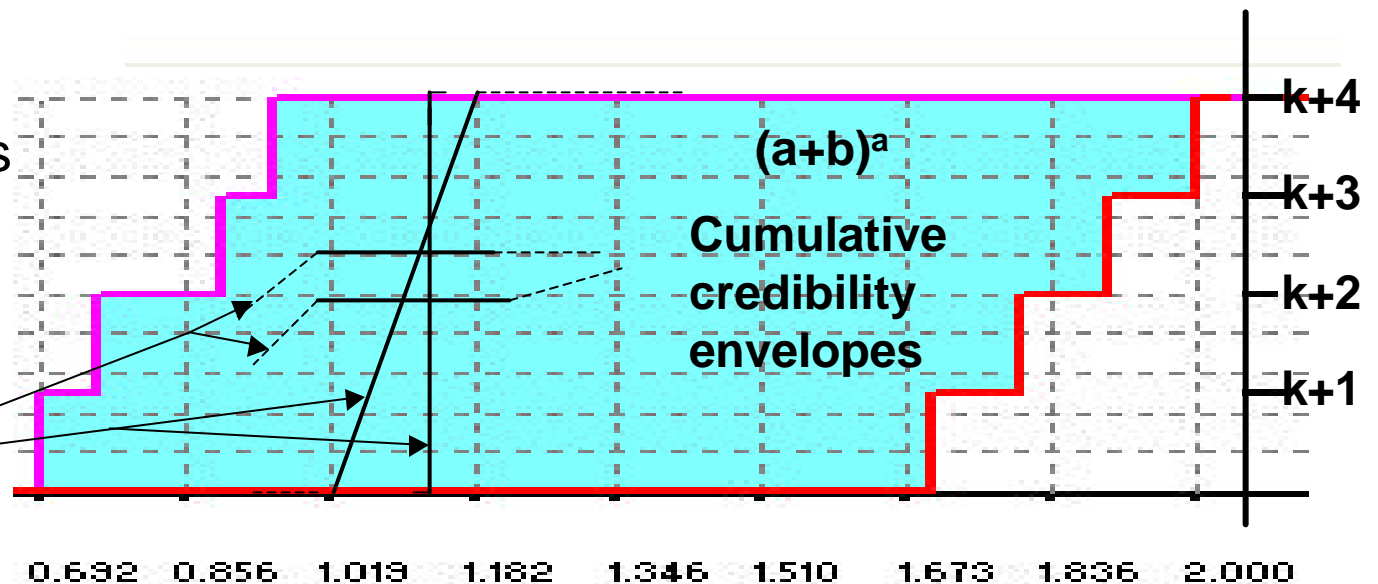
0.632 0.800 0.972 1.143 1.314 1.486 1.657 1.829 2.000

# Problem 2b: Interpreting Envelopes

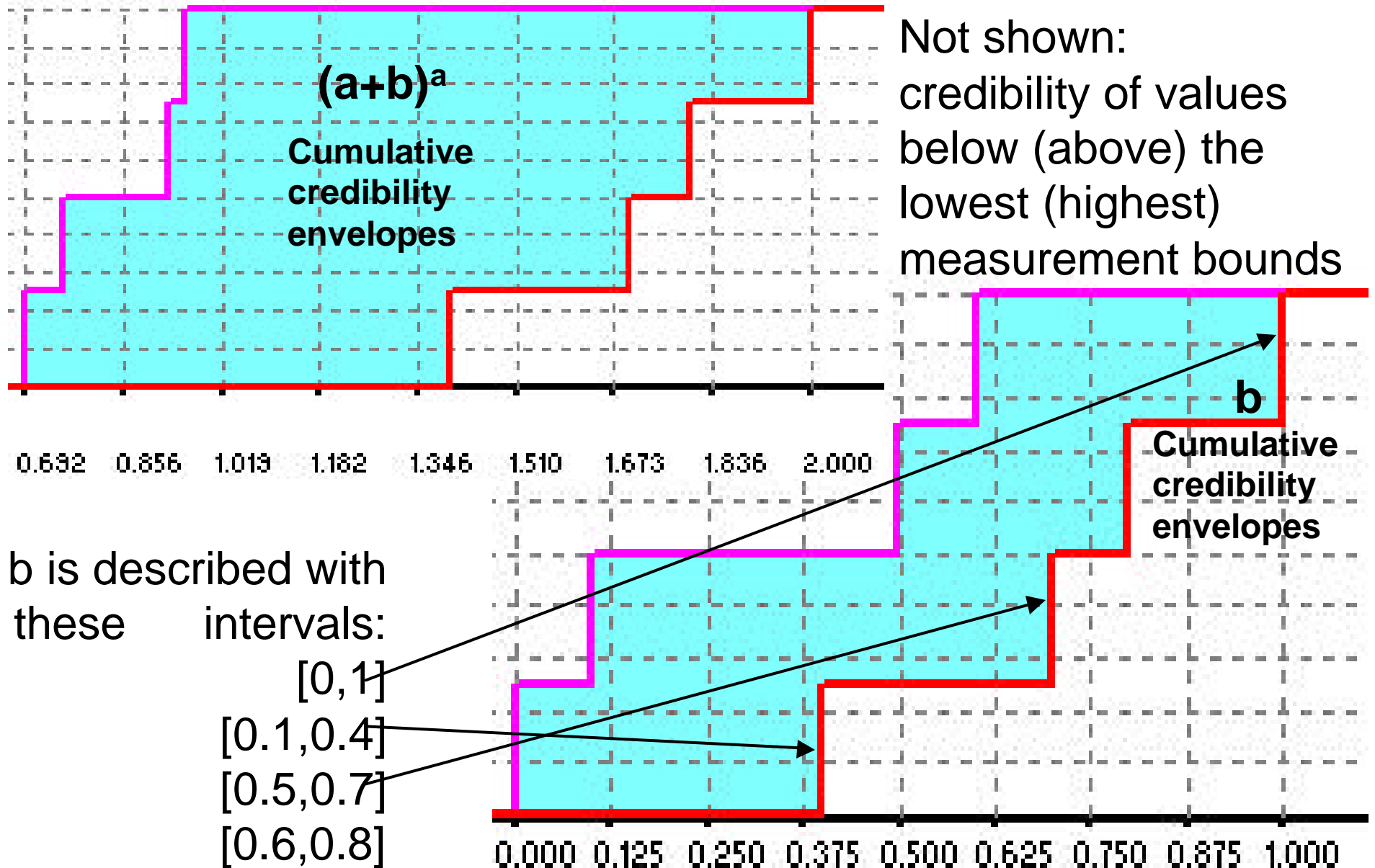
1 unit of credibility  
distributed over  $[0,1]$  in an  
undefined manner implies  
cumulative credibility can  
increase as early as  
1 unit at  $b=0$   
and as late as  
1 unit at  $b=1$ .  
Similarly for other intervals.



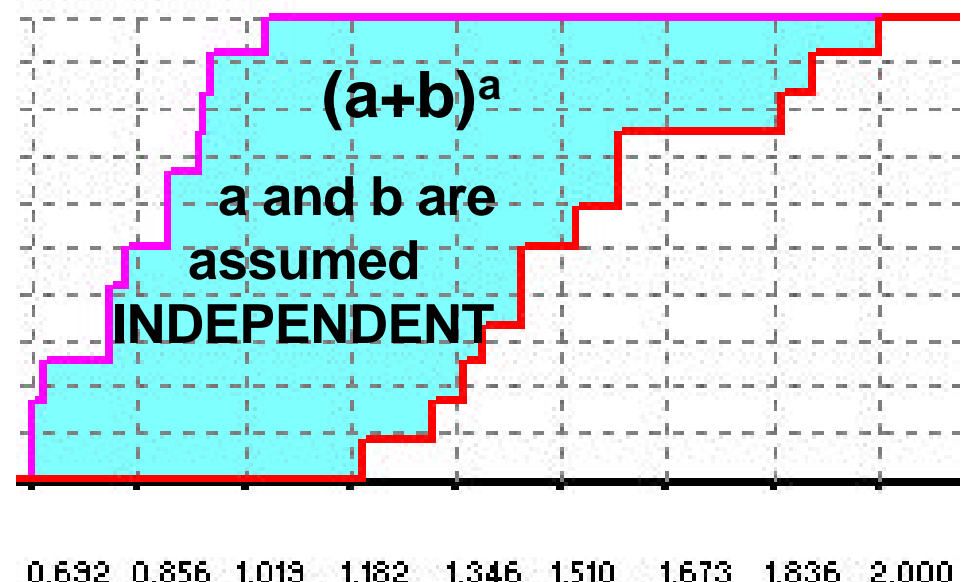
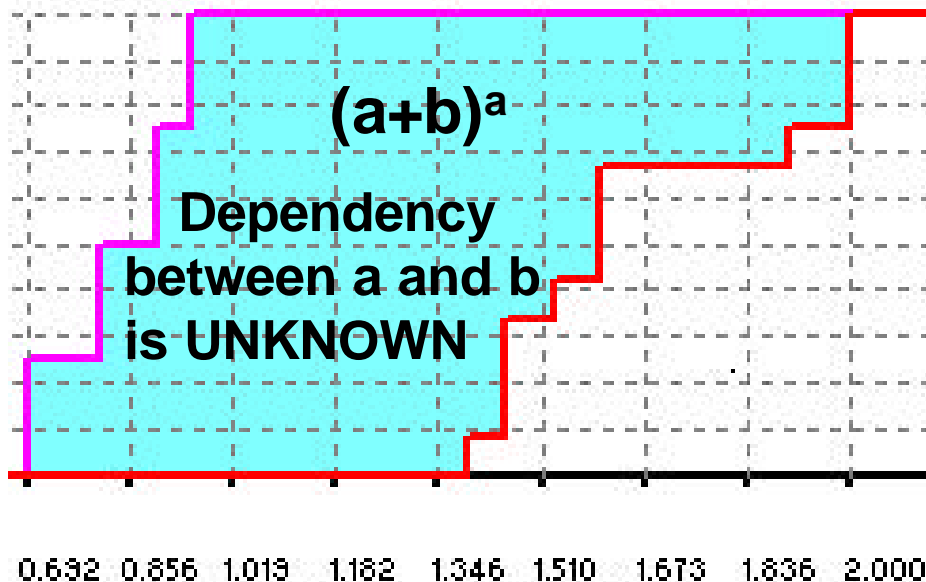
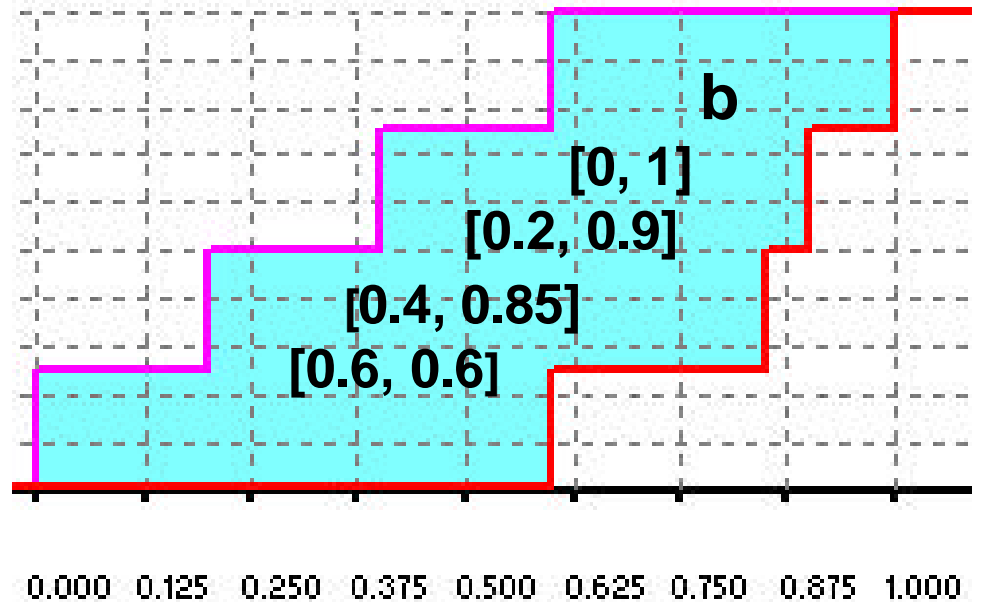
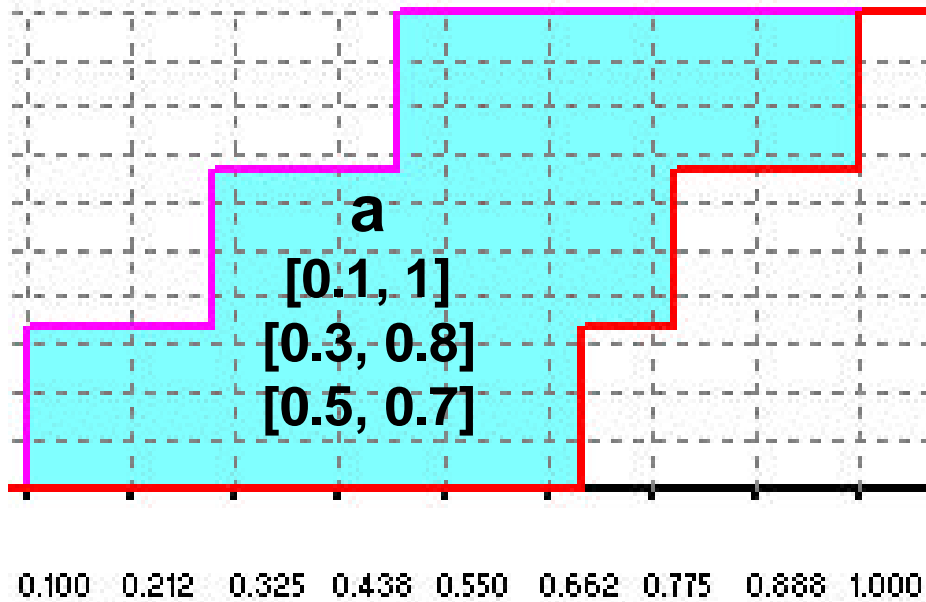
Any cumulation curve  
within the envelopes is  
plausible. So, over  
 $[1,1.2]$   
credibility may  
increase as little as 0,  
or as much as 4.



# Problem 2c



# Problem 3a



# The DEnv Algorithm – a Independent of b

- Given intervals for **a** and **b**
  - Make a *joint distribution tableau*

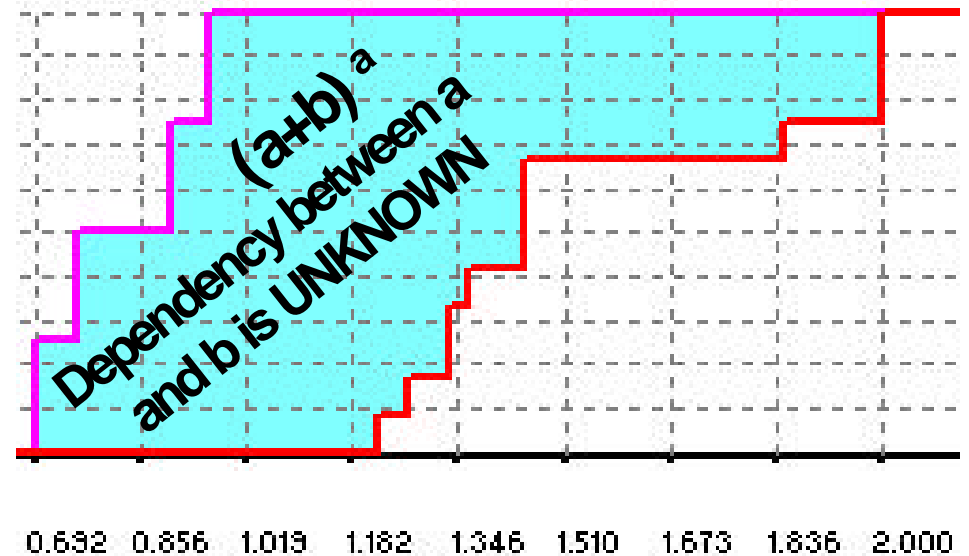
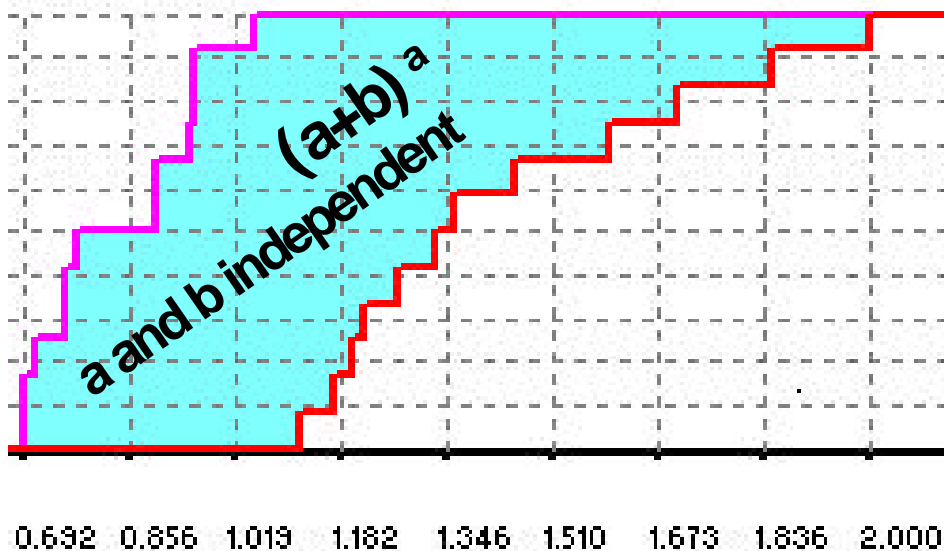
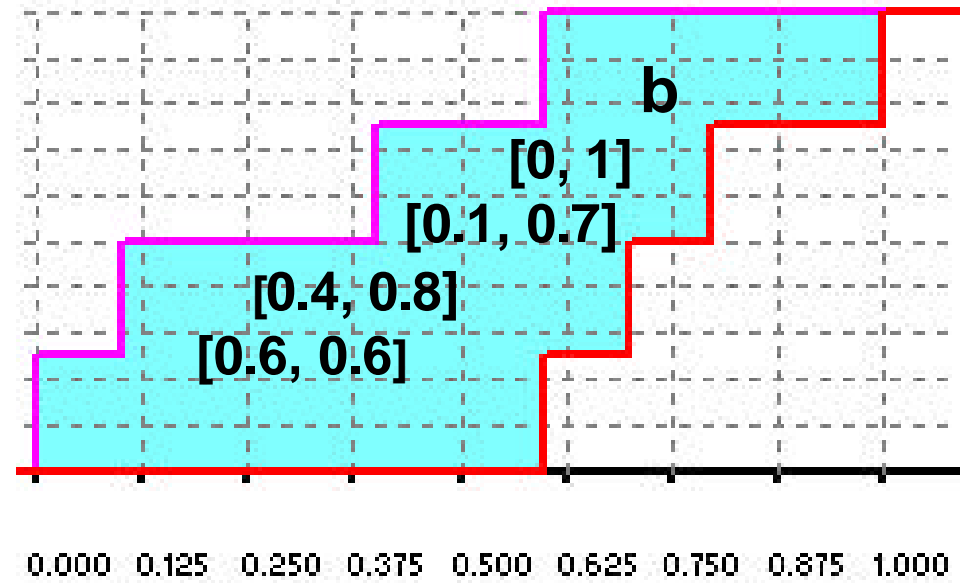
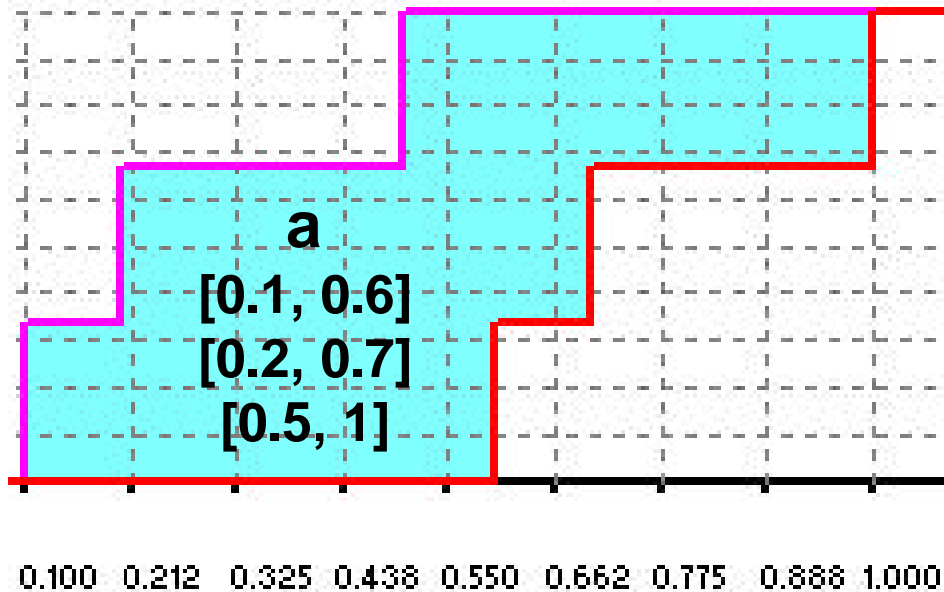
$b?$ $(a+b)^a$ $?a \quad \searrow$	[0, 1]	[.2,.9]	[.4,.85]	[.6,.6]
[.1,1]	[.69,2]	[.81,1.9]	[.9,1.85]	[.96,1.6]
[.3,.8]	[.69,1.6]	[.81,1.5]	[.9,1.49]	[.97,1.31]
[.5,.7]	[.71,1.7]	[.84,1.39]	[.95,1.36]	[1.05,1.2]

- Independence implies equal interior cell credibilities
- If **a** or **b** is one interval, there is one row or column
- Left (right) envelope height at any value  $z$  is the cumulated credibilities of interior cells with low (high) bounds  $\leq (\geq) z$

# The DEnv Algorithm – Unknown Dependency Between a and b

- Credibilities of interior cells need not be equal
- Credibilities of interior cells in a row sum to credibility of marginal cell
  - Analogously for columns
- Within those constraints, maximize (minimize) cumulation at each  $z$  to get left (right) envelope
  - Use linear programming
- (Caveat: credibility calculus is currently incomplete)
  - (Sub-caveat: Statool graphs treat credibility as probability)

# Problem 3b





3c

Input a

[0.8, 1]

[.5, .7]

[0.1, 0.4]

0.100 0.212 0.325 0.438 0.550 0.662 0.775 0.888 1.000

Input b

[.8, 1]

[.5, .7]

[0.1, 0.4]

[0, .2]

0.000 0.125 0.250 0.375 0.500 0.625 0.750 0.875 1.000

$(a+b)^a$

a and b have  
unknown  
dependency

dependency

0.692 0.856 1.019 1.182 1.346 1.510 1.673 1.836 2.000

a and b independent

0.692 0.856 1.019 1.182 1.346 1.510 1.673 1.836 2.000

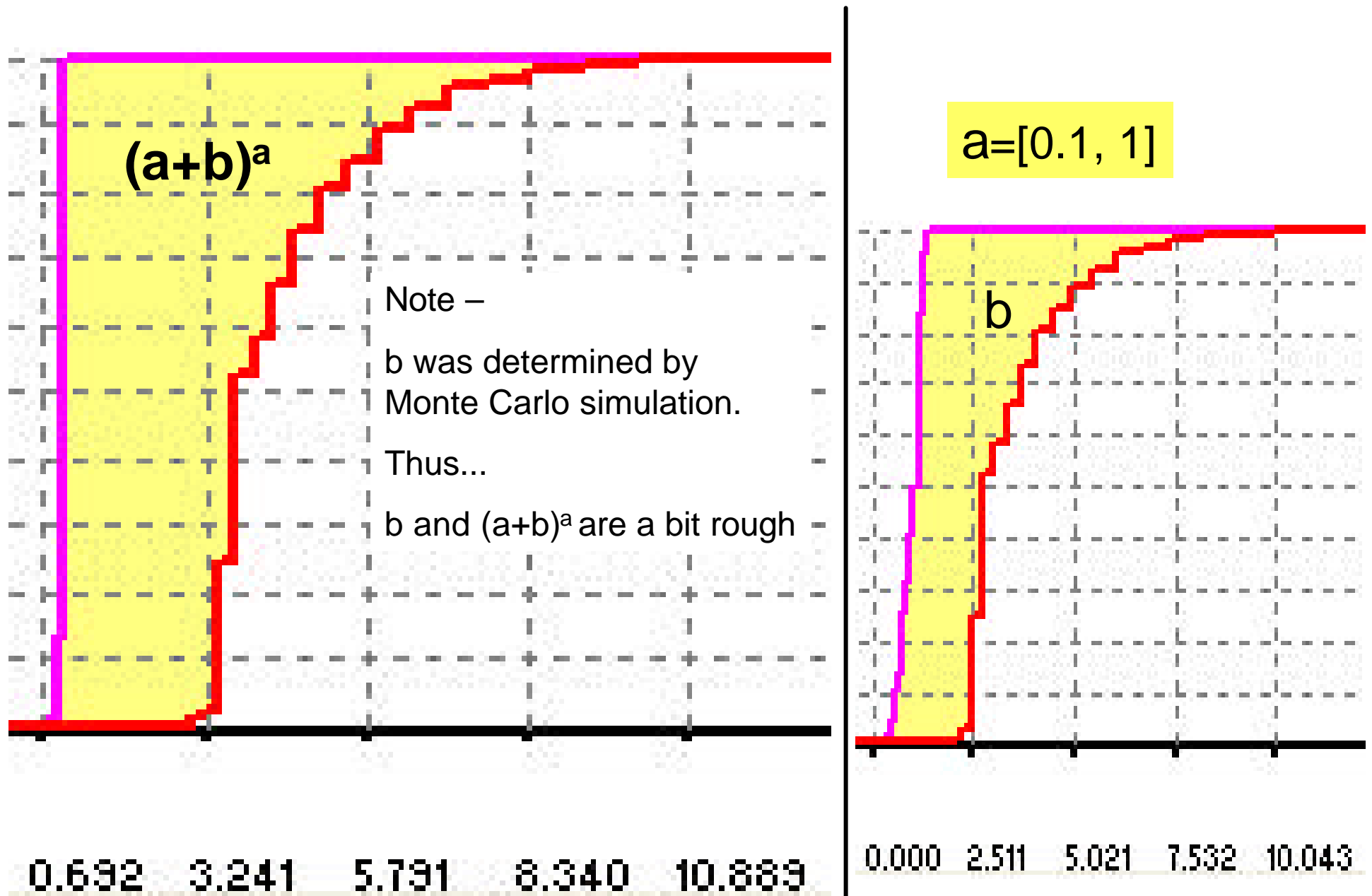
a and b have large  
positive correlation

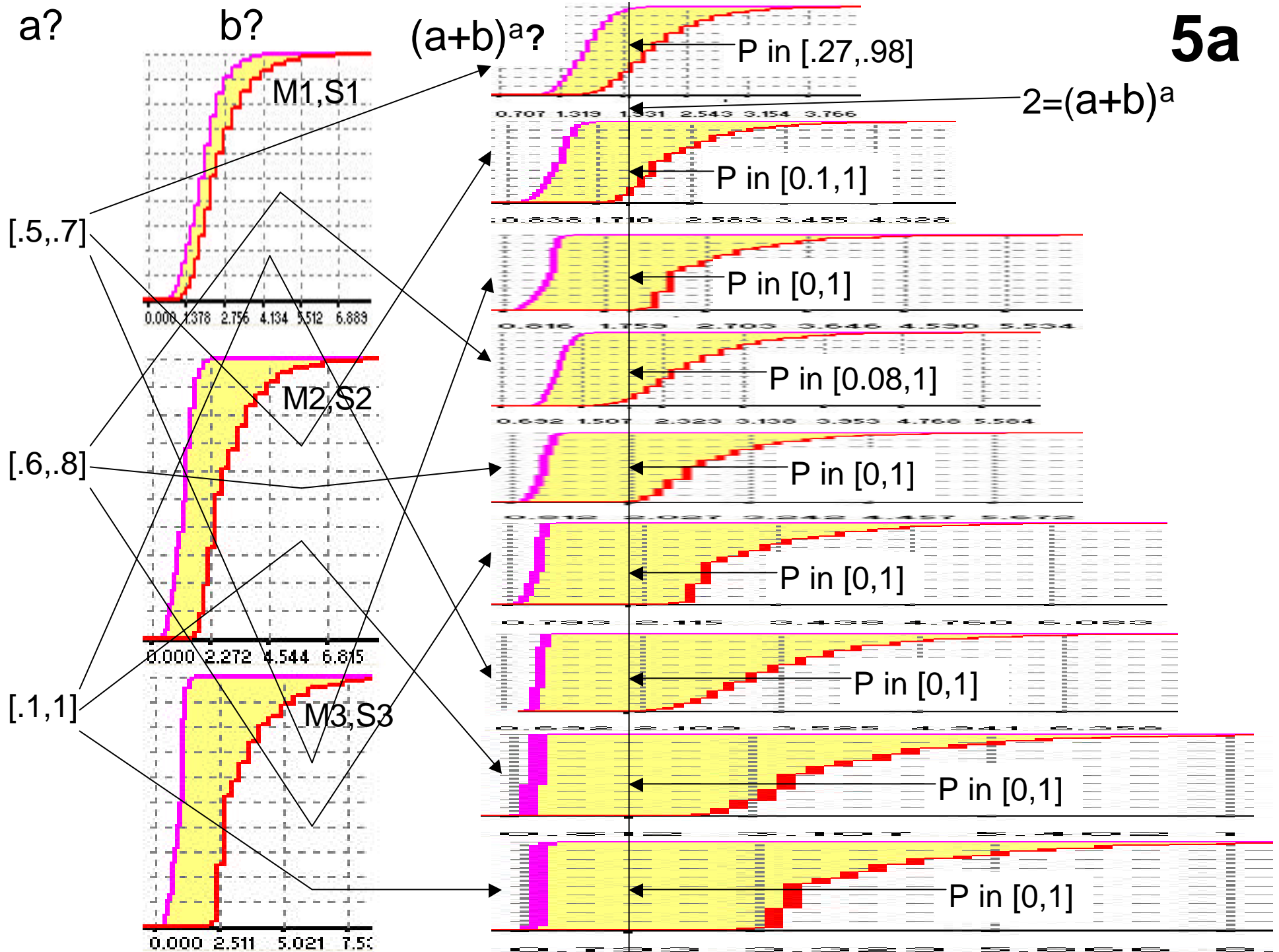
0.692 0.857 1.020 1.183 1.347 1.510 1.673 1.837 2.000

a and b have large  
negative correlation

0.692 0.857 1.020 1.183 1.347 1.510 1.673 1.837 2.000

# Problem 4 – a an Interval, b Envelopes

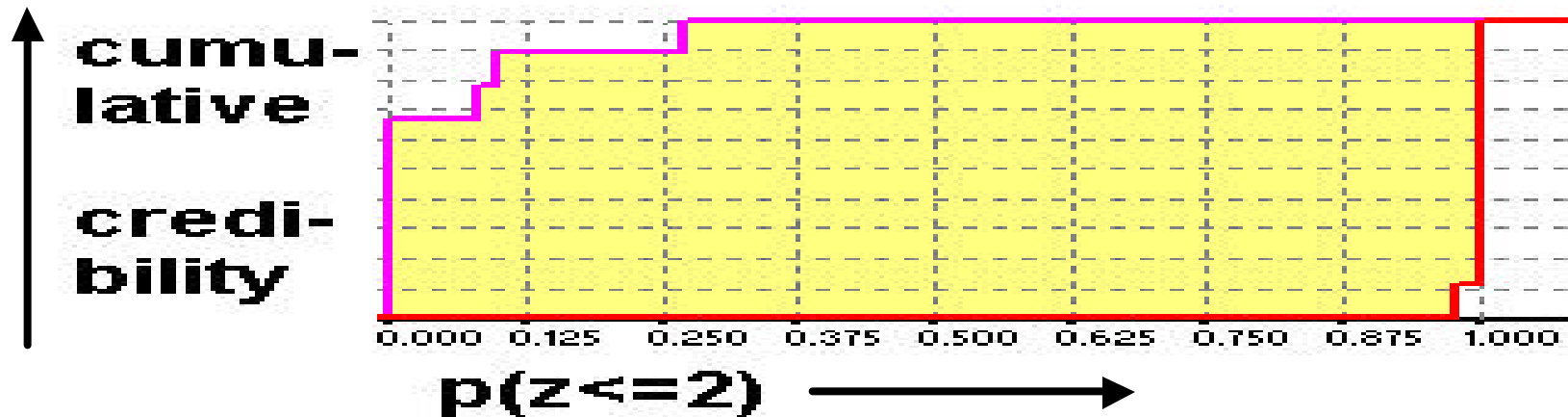




# Problem 5a (cont.)

- Nine equally credible envelopes for  $z$ 
  - (Assuming measurements of **a** are independent of the credibility of measurements of **b**)
  - (Otherwise envelopes are not equally credible)
- Thus  $p(z=2)$  has 9 equally credible intervals:
  - [.27,.98], [.1,1], [0,1], [.08,1], [0,1], [0,1], [0,1], [0,1], [0,1]
  - This enables...

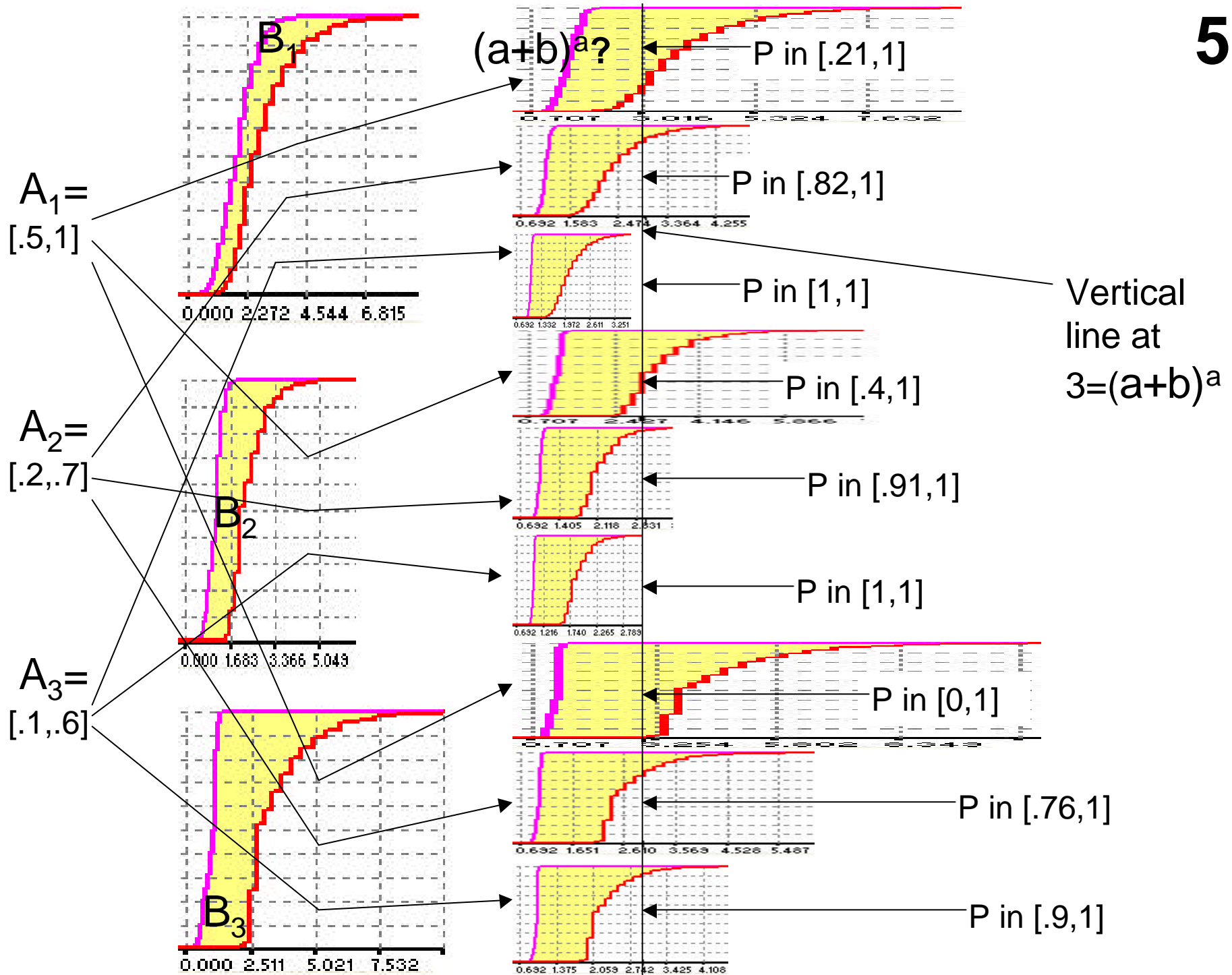
*Envelopes around the cumulative credibility of  $p(z=2)$ :*



## 5a – Further Comments

- If credibilities of measurements of **a**
  - are not independent of credibilities of **b**
  - Then envelope step heights can differ
- Concept of credibility must compensate for
  - useless certainty
  - probability in  $[0,1]$  is certain but useless
    - its credibility should affect other measurements in a reasonable way

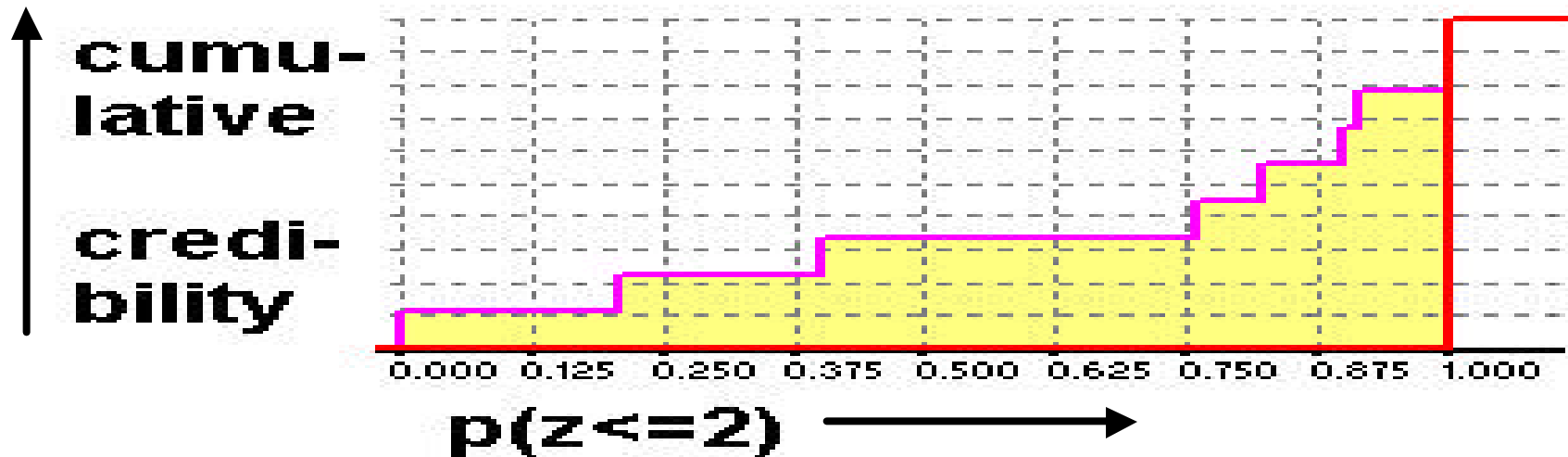
5b



# Problem 5b (cont.)

- Nine equally credible envelopes for  $z$ 
  - (Assuming measurements of **a** are independent of the credibility of measurements of **b**)
  - (Otherwise envelopes are not equally credible)
- Thus  $p(z=3)$  has 9 equally credible intervals:
  - $[\cdot 21, 1]$ ,  $[\cdot 82, 1]$ ,  $[1, 1]$ ,  $[\cdot 4, 1]$ ,  $[\cdot 91, 1]$ ,  $[1, 1]$ ,  $[0, 1]$ ,  $[\cdot 76, 1]$ ,  $[9, 1]$
  - Of course, we could instead find  $p(z=k)$  for “any”  $k$

*Envelopes around the cumulative credibility of  $p(z=3)$ :*

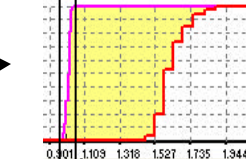
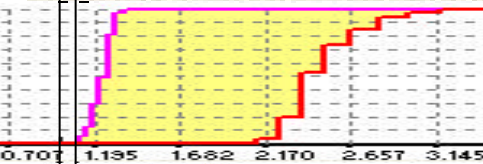
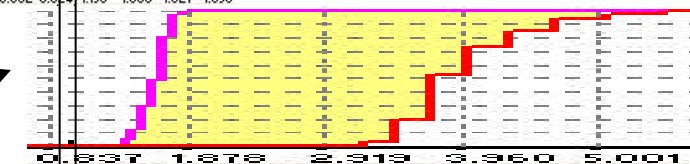
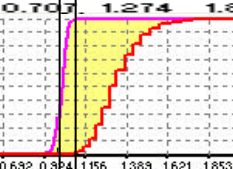
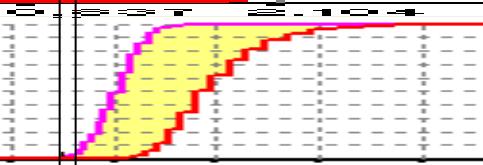
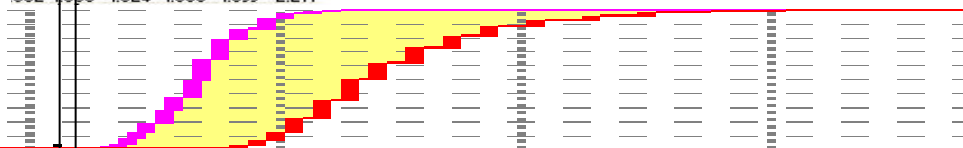
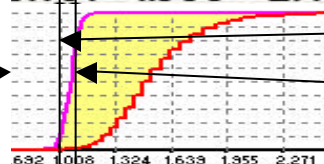
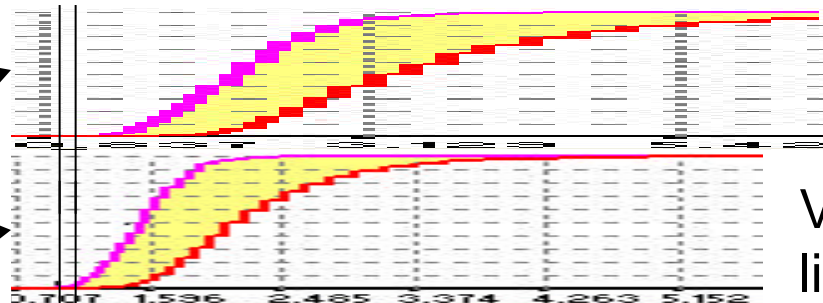
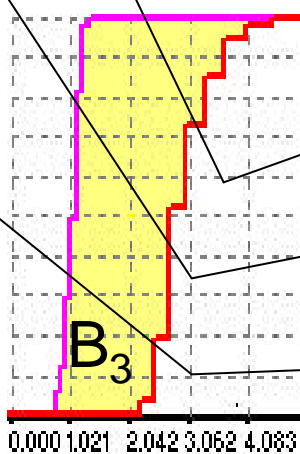
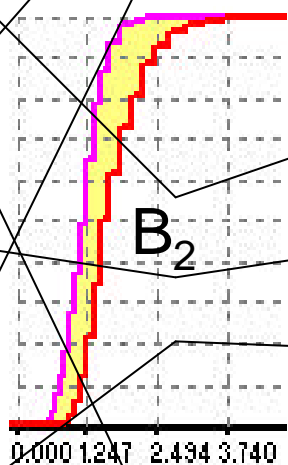
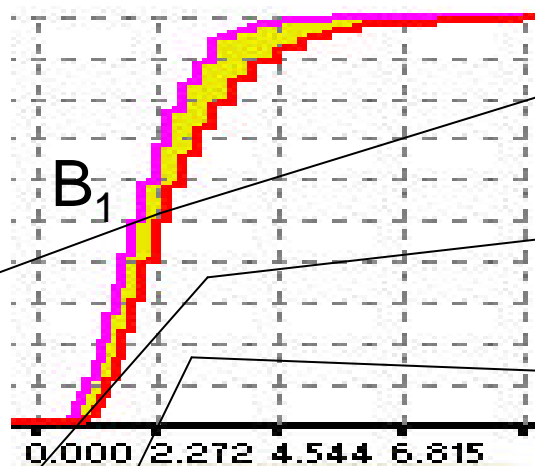


# 5c

$A_1 =$   
[.8,1]

$A_2 =$   
[.5,.7]

$A_3 =$   
[.1,.4]

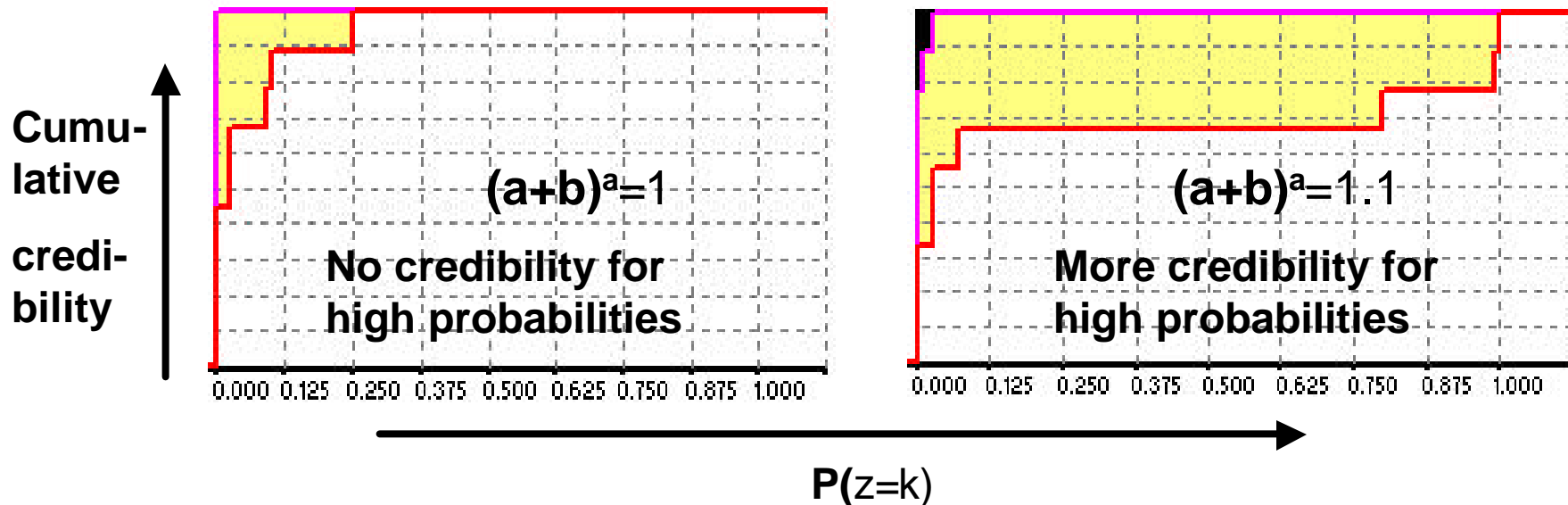


Vertical  
lines at  
1 and  
1.1



# Problem 5c (cont.)

- As before, 9 envelopes for  $z$
- Thus  $p(z=1)$  has 9 intervals:
  - (Caveat: these were determined visually from the 9 graphs)
  - $[0,0]$ ,  $[0,.02]$ ,  $[0,.09]$ ,  $[0,0]$ ,  $[0,.02]$ ,  $[0,.25]$ ,  $[0,0]$ ,  $[0,0]$ ,  $[0,.1]$
- Similarly  $p(z=1.1)$  has 9 intervals also:
  - $[0,0]$ ,  $[0,.025]$ ,  $[.01,.8]$ ,  $[0,0]$ ,  $[0,.07]$ ,  $[.025,.99]$ ,  $[0,0]$ ,  $[0,.025]$ ,  $[0,1]$



# Problem 6

?  $a=[.1, 1]$  represents the union of all distributions with supports of 0 below 0.1 and above 1.  
 ? Union may be shown with CDF envelopes.

$b$  is a distribution discretized with 32 rectangles

0.100 0.212 0.325 0.438 0.550 0.662 0.775 0.888 1.000

0.000 1.523 3.046 4.568 6.091 7.614

$(a+b)^a$  consists of envelopes enclosing all possible cumulative distributions

0.692 2.253 3.815 5.376 6.937 8.499

# Acknowledgements

The authors gratefully acknowledge the inspiration, encouragement, and/or technical contributions of (in alphabetical order):

Scott Ferson

Vladik Kreinovich

Gerry Sheblé

Lizhi Xie